

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 36  
By Fowler

A RESOLUTION to propose an amendment to Article VI of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, to provide for election of judges in open, competitive elections.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That a majority of all the members of each house concurring, as shown by the yeas and nays entered on their journals, that it is proposed that Article VI of the Constitution of Tennessee be amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section 15. Each Judge of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the Circuit and Chancery Courts and other Inferior Courts shall be elected by qualified voters in an open, competitive election in which other qualified candidates for the office may be listed on the ballot and in which the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes is elected to such office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon ratification of this amendment at the November 2006 general election, Article VI, Section 15 shall apply to vacancies arising for any reason on or after January 1, 2007; provided, however, this amendment shall not abbreviate the term of office for which a judge was elected or selected prior to January 1, 2007; provided further, however, this amendment shall not prohibit the filling of a vacancy by interim appointment pending the next biennial election of civil officers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the foregoing amendment be referred to the One Hundred Fourth General Assembly and that this resolution proposing such amendment be published by the Secretary of State in accordance with Article XI, Section 3, of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the clerk of the senate is directed to deliver a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State.